

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KINGST 02739 01 OF 02 061241Z

65

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SCCT-01 ACDA-07 IO-13 ARAE-00 EUR-12 /095 W

----- 023406

P R 022030Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1601

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDTETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KINGSTON 2739

EO 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PINT PINR JM

SUBJ: STATE OF EMERGENCY: ALBERT ROBINSON

REF: KINGSTON 2518

1. WHEN PRIME MINISTER MANLEY ADDRESSED PARLIAMENT ON JUNE 22, HE CLAIMED THAT THE DECLARATION OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY (SOE) JUNE 19 HAD BEEN TRIGGERED BY A "SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENT" THAT WAS "STRANGE IN THE EXTREME". MANLEY DESCRIBED IT IN THE FOLLOWING FASHION.

2. "IT CAME TO THE ATTENTION OF THE SECURITY FORCES THAT A MAN WANTED TO MAKE A STATEMENT INVOLVING CRIME. THE SECURITY FORCES IMMEDIATELY ARRANGED TO MEET THIS MAN AND LISTEN TO WHAT HE HAD TO SAY. HE MADE A SERIES OF GRAVE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST AN AGENCY OF THE GOVERNMENT AND A NUMBER OF PROMINENT PERSONALITIES ASSOCIATED WITH GOVERNMENT, ALL DEALING WITH THE DISTRIBUTION OF GUNS.

3. "HOWEVER, IMMEDIATELY AFTER, THE MAN MADE FURTHER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KINGST 02739 01 OF 02 061241Z

STATEMENTS, THIS TIME UNDER OATH, TO THE EFFECT THAT

EVERYTHING THAT HE HAD SAID ON THE FIRST OCCASION WAS UNTRUE AND THAT HE HAD MADE THESE SERIOUS ALLEGATIONS UNDER THREAT AND BECAUSE HE WAS TOLD TO DO SO BY CERTAIN PERSONS WHO WOULD STAND TO BENEFIT IF THE GOVERNMENT WERE EMBARRASSED.

4. " IT SO HAPPENS THAT THERE ARE INCONTROVERTIBLE FACTS, QUITE APART FROM THE WORD OF THE MAN, WHICH PROVE CONCLUSIVELY THAT THE ALLEGATIONS WHICH HE MADE AGAINST PEOPLE CONNECTED WITH THE GOVERNMENT WERE NOT IN FACT TRUE AND COULD NOT IN FACT HAVE BEEN TRUE. NEEDLESS TO SAY, THE GOVERNMENT IS CONTINUING TO INVESTIGATE ALL OF THE ALLGEGATIONS OF THIS MAN INCLUDING THE SWORN STATEMENT THAT HE HAD BEEN PUT TO DO THESE THINGS UNDER THREAT FOR THE PURPOSE OF HURTING AND EMBARRASSING THE GOVERNMENT.

5. "IN THE COURSE OF INVESTIGATING THIS STRANGE AND SINISTER CASE, OTHER AND SIMILAR MATTERS CAME TO LIGHT SUGGESTING AT THE VERY LEAST THE POSSIBILITY OF A CONSPIRACY TO CREATE HARM TO THE NAME OF PROMINENT SUPPORTERS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND TO CAUSE A GENERAL INCREASE IN THE ATMOSPHERE OF UNCERTAINTY AND FEAR IN THE COUNTRY.

6. "AT THIS STAGE, THE GOVERNMENT TOOK THE DECISION TO ACT IMMEDIATELY AND DECISIVELY TO BRING THE WHOLE OF THIS DANGEROUS, DISRUPTIVE AND SUBVERSIVE BEHAVIOR TO A HALT BY DELCLARING THE STATE OF EMERGENCY AT ONCE."

7. THE MYSTERY MAN IN THE P.M.'S SPEECH HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED TO THE EMBASSY BY THE OPPOSITION AS ALBERT ROBINSON, AN EMPLOYEE OF THE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION AND FORMER PNP ORGANIZER, WHO CLAIMS TO HAVE TRAVELED TO CUBA UNDER PNP SPONSORSHIP. THE JLP'S VERSION OF THEIR INVOLVEMENT WITH ROBINSONIS AS FOLLOWS.

8. ROBINSON APPROACHED THE JLP CLAIMING TO HAVE DOCUMENTARY CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KINGST 02739 01 OF 02 061241Z

AND PHYSICAIAL EVIDENCE OF CLANDESTINE ARMS IMPORTS INTO JAMAICA BY THE PNP AND WEAPONS TRAINING IN CUBA FOR PARTY YOUTH. HE SAID HE WAS PREPARED TO PRODUCE THIS EVIDENCE IF PROTECTION COULD BE ARRANGED FOR HIM AND HIS FAMILY.

9. OPPOSITION LEADER EDWARD SEAGA DID NOT RPT NOT SEE ROBINSON BUT APPROACHED JDF BRIGADIER RUDOLF

GREEN REQUESTING THAT ONE OF GREEN'S OFFICERS BE
PRESENT WHEN ONE OF SEAGA'S AIDES TALKED TO ROBINSON.
GREEN AGREED AND A MEETING WAS ARRANGED
IN OCHO RIOS WITH THE JDF OFFICER PRESENT BUT NOT
IDENTIFIED AS SUCH TO ROBINSON.

10. AT THE MEETING ROBINSON SAID SOME 1000 WEAPONS
WERE BEING DISTRIBUTED TO PNP CADRES THROUGH
THE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION AND PRODUCED
DOCUMENTS AND TAPES WHICH DEMONSTRATED A PNP INTENTION
TO ILLEGALLY PERPETUATE ITSELF IN POWER. HE OFFERED
TO MAKE A SWORN STATEMENT AND PRODUCE
FURTHER EVIDENCE IN RETURN FOR PROTECTION AND/OR
PASSAGE OUT OF THE COUNTRY.

11. SEAGA CLAIMS THE OCHO RIOS MEETING WAS THE
LAST CONTACT HIS PEOPLE HAD WITH ROBINSON AS HE
ASSUMED THE JDF WOULD CHECK OUT HIS STORY AND TAKE
WHATEVER APPROPRIATE ACTION WAS REQUIRED. HE
DID NOT GIVE ROBINSON AND HIS TALE ANY FURTHER
THOUGHT UNTIL JUNE 18 WHEN BRIGADIER GREEN CAME
TO HIS HOME, ACCOMPANIED BY POLICE SUPERINTENDENT
(CID) LARRY TROUGHT AND THE JDF OFFICER WHO
ATTENDED THE OCHO RIOS MEETING.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KINGST 02739 02 OF 02 061306Z

65

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SCCT-01 ACDA-07 IO-13 ARAE-00 EUR-12 /095 W

----- 023700

P R 022030Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1602

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KINGSTON 2739

12. GREEN DEMANDED TO KNOW WHAT INFORMATION SEAGA HAD RECEIVED FROM ROBINSON. SEAGA SAID NONE BEYOND THAT CONVEYED AT THE OCHO RIOS MEETING AT WHICH THE JDF OFFICER WAS PRESENT. GREEN THEN INFORMED SEAGA THAT ROBINSON HAD RECANTED HIS ORIGINAL STORY. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS CONVERSATION WITH GREEN DID NOT BECOME FULLY APPARENT TO SEAGA UNTIL AFTER THE SOE WAS DECLARED AND THE PM'S STATEMENT OF JUNE 22.

13. SEAGA SPECULATES THAT MANLEY'S DECLARATION OF THE SOE JUNE 19 WAS A PRE-EMPTIVE MOVE BY THE P.M. AS HE FEARED THE JLP WAS GOING TO PUBLICIZE ROBINSON'S ACCUSATIONS. HE ATTRIBUTES THE DETENTION OF HIS AIDES, PAT STEPHENS AND ROBBY MARSH, TO THE FACT THAT THEY WERE THE TWO MEMBERS OF HIS PARTY WHO HAD BEEN THE PRIMARY CONTACTS WITH ROBINSON.

14. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY HAS NO REASON TO DUBUT SEAGA'S VERSION OF THE ROBINSON "AFFAIR." SEAGA HAD INFORMED THE EMBASSY IN PASSING JUNE 8 THAT HE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KINGST 02739 02 OF 02 061306Z

HAD BEEN APPROACHED BY APNP MEMBER WHO CLAIMED TO HAVE DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT PNP SKULLDUGGERY. AS HE WAS UNSURE OF THE SOURCE'S BONA FIDES, HE WAS TRYING TO ARRANGE THAT WHATEVER STATEMENT THE SOURCE MIGHT MAKE, BE RENDERED IN THE PRESENCE OF A JCF OR JDF SECURITY OFFICER. SEAGA PROMISED TO LET US KNOW IF ANYTHING SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPED, BUT THE EMBASSY NEVER HEARD FURTHER FROM HIM ON THE SUBJECT.

15. THE P.M.'S ASSERTION JUNE 22 THAT THE SOURCE (ROBINSON) MADE HIS ALLEGATIONS UNDER THREAT APPEARS TO BE PURE POPPCOCK, FOR ROBINSON ACTIVELY HAD BEEN TRYING TO PEDDLE HIS "INFORMATION" AGAINST THE PNP LONG BEFORE HE APPROACHED SEAGA. HE HAD APPROACHED THE EMBASSY AND CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSION ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS IN LATE APRIL AND EARLY MAY, AND POLITELY WAS SHOWN THE DOOR WHEN IT BECAME MOST APPARENT THAT HIS STORY WAS FAR-FETCHED AND INCONSISTENT. IN SHORT, NO ONE HAD TO THREATEN ROBINSON, HE WAS PREPARED TO SAY JUST ABOUT ANYTHING AGAINST THE PNP IF IT WOULD HELP HIM GET OUT OF THE COUNTRY.

16. ROBINSON WAS A PNP ORGANIZER AND YOUTH
LEADER, WHICH MIGHT EXPLAIN MANLEY'S REACTION.
THE P.M. MAY HAVE HAD REASON TO BELIEVE ROBINSON
DID HAVE SMME EMBARRASSING INFORMATION TO PEDDLE.
THE EMBASSY WOULD BE TEMPTED TO DISMISS THE WHOLE
EPISODE AS A SAD FARCE IF IT WERE NOT FOR THE
FACT THAT ROBINSON IN HIS BUMBLING WAY HAS SUCCEDED
IN CREATING SITUATION IN WHICH THE
PRESRIGE AND CREDUILITY OF THE P.M., THE OPPOSITION
LEADER AND THE BRIGADIER ARE VERY MUCH AT STAKE.
GERARD

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MARTIAL LAW, POLICIES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976KINGST02739
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760259-1132
From: KINGSTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760796/aaaadggo.tel
Line Count: 234
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 KINGSTON 2518
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <08 JUL 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STATE OF EMERGENCY: ALBERT ROBINSON
TAGS: PINT, PINR, PGOV, JM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006